

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1, 10 and 19 are amended herein. Claims 1-24 are rejected.

102 Rejection

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Allen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,675,802). The Applicant has reviewed the cited reference and respectfully submits that the embodiments of the present invention that are set forth in Claims 1-24 are neither shown nor suggested by Allen et al.

The Examiner is respectfully directed to independent Claim 1 which sets forth a method for maintaining software product version tracking in a client/server computer system environment, including:

... d) editing the one software product version using the one client and returning a resulting new software product version to the single database; e) using the server, updating the directories of the single database to immediately chronologically track the new software product version to ensure the paths for each of the plurality of software product versions and the new software product version are available to the plurality of clients.

Independent Claims 10 and 19 recite limitations similar to those contained in Claim 1. Claims 2-9 depend from Claim 1, Claims 11-8 depend from Claim 10 and Claims 20-24 depend from Claim 19 and recite further limitations of the claimed invention

Allen et al. does not anticipate or render obvious a method for maintaining software product version tracking in a client/server computer system environment that includes: (1)

editing one software product version using a single client and “returning a resulting new software product version to the single database” and, (2) using a server, “updating the directories of the single database to immediately chronologically track the new software product” as is recited in Claim 1 (Claims 10 and 19 contain similar limitations).

Allen et al. only shows a file version control system for a geographically distributed software development. Allen et al. is concerned with controlling files within a geographically distributed multi-site software project. More specifically, Allen et al. is concerned with the retrieval, storage and exchange of versions of the aforementioned files from components (e.g., replicas) of local and remote storage devices (storage devices that reside at various locations within the geographically distributed software development). The subject matter disclosed by the Allen et al. reference which focuses on geographically distributed and thus distinct storage devices is strikingly different from the Applicant’s invention as is set forth in Claim 1 (Claims 10 and 19 contain similar limitations) which involves the relationships among a single client, a single database and a server that updates the directories of the single database to provide immediate chronological tracking of a new software product.

Additionally, Applicant’s Claim 1 attributes distinct functionalities to the recited client and the recited server, with the two entities being claimed as separate and distinct components as a part of the Claim 1 embodiment. It should be appreciated that Allen et al. is silent a teaching that a client (that is separate and distinct from the recited server) edits a software product, and a server (that is separate and distinct from the recited client) updates a directories associated with the software product in a non-distributed database (e.g., a single database as

claimed) based on the editing. As such, numerous specifically recited functional relationships that are clearly defined in the claims are simply not shown or suggested by Allen et al.

It should be appreciated that Allen et al. teaches sharply away from the immediate chronological tracking of new software products as Allen et al. teaches a system that is based on the provision of “weakly consistent replicas” where “there is no guarantee that a change made at one replica is immediately visible at the other replicas.”

In fact, nowhere in the Allen et al. reference is it shown or suggested that a single client may edit and return a software product to a single intact database wherein a server updates the database to “immediately chronologically track the new software product” as is recited in Claim 1 (and Claims 10 and 19 with similar limitations). Consequently, Allen et al. does not anticipate or render obvious the embodiment of the claimed invention that is set forth in Claim 1 (and Claims 10 and 19 with similar limitations).

Accordingly, the Applicant also respectfully submits that Allen et al. does not anticipate or render obvious the present claimed invention as is recited in Claims 2-9 dependent on Claim 1, Claims 11-18 dependent on Claim 10 and Claims 20-24 dependent on Claim 19 and that these Claims overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of the Applicant’s Claims under 35 U.S.C. 102 should be withdrawn. The Examiner is reminded that in order to anticipate a Claim, the reference must teach each and every element of the Claim. “A claim is anticipated

only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed Cir. 1987). It is clear from the discussion above that “each and every element” is in fact not described by the Allen et al. reference. Allen et al. does not “either expressly or inherently” show or suggest that a single client may edit and return a software product to a single intact database wherein a server updates that database to “immediately chronologically track the new software product” as is recited in the claims.

Conclusion

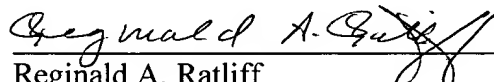
In light of the above-listed remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the remaining Claims.

The Examiner is urged to contact the Applicant’s undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 6/8, 2005


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